

Message Text

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USDOC FOR BEWT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, UR
SUBJ: TYUMEN GAS AND OIL PRODUCTION

REF: MOSCOW 4776 AND PREVIOUS

1. WASHINGTON AGENCIES INTERESTED IN SOVIET GAS AND OIL INDUSTRY MAY WISH TO REVIEW EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA NO. 16 ARTICLE CAPTIONED "WESTERN SIBERIA - MAIN OIL PRODUCING BASE OF THE COUNTRY." ALTHOUGH PRIMARILY HISTORICAL/DESCRIPTIVE IN NATURE, THE ARTICLE QUOTES TYUMENT GAS AND OIL INDUSTRY DIRECTOR V.I. MURAVLENKO THAT THE CHIEF TASK OF THE INDUSTRY IS STILL BETTER DEFINITION BY GEOLOGISTS OF THE TECHNICAL FOUNDATION OF THE REGION, IN THE INTEREST OF QUICKER RECOVERY OF ITS MINERAL WEALTH. OTHER IMPORTANT TASKS, ACCORDING TO MURAVLENKO, ARE DEVELOPMENT OF SUBSIDIARY FIELDS ADJACENT TO MAIN PRODUCING AREAS AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE (DWELLING SPACE, CULTURAL FACILITIES, ETC.).

2. THE ACCOMPANYING MAP INDICATES OIL AS WELL AS GAS AT NOVY PORT, WEST OF THE OB GULF, AND SHOWS AN "OILFIELD"
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05231 181740Z

LYING DUE NORTH OF URENGOY.

3. 1977 PLAN FIGURES FOR THE TYUMEN AREA ARE GIVEN AS 214.5 MILLION TONS OF OIL AND 63.1 BILLION CUBIC METERS OF GAS, TO INCREASE TO 310 MILLION TONS AND 139 BILLION CUBIC METERS, RESPECTIVELY, IN 1980.

4. THE ARTICLE ALSO MENTIONS PROBLEMS WITH THE PACE OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE TOBOLSK PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX AND DISCUSSES WIDESPREAD BOILER UTILIZATION, BY INFERENCE UNDESIRABLE OF OIL AND NATURAL GAS.

5. COMMENT: THE FIRST TASK CITED BY DIRECTOR MURAVLENKO APPEARS TO APPLY MORE TO OIL THAN GAS, WHICH IS ALREADY LOCATED IN LARGE QUANTITIES THOUGH DIFFICULT TO EXPLOIT. IT SUGGESTS THAT SOVIET SPECIALISTS ARE HIGHLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE NEED TO DISCOVER FUTURE OIL SUPPLIES. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE TO INFER FROM THE ARTICLE AN AWARENESS OF THE DESIRABILITY OF SUBSTITUTING WHERE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY FOR OIL AND NATURAL GAS. TOON

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